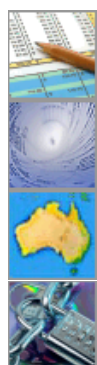


Summary

Contents

CONTENTS

Your feedback is important to us. Please email your comments and suggestions to: regional.statistics@abs.gov.au.



Regional Statistics Matters

Includes: Information about what the ABS is currently doing to improve the availability of regional data.

Focus On: Includes feature articles in this issue.

Changes to Geography for the Survey of Tourist Accommodation (added Sep 2012)

Understanding the New ABS Geography (added Jun 2012)

National Regional Profile Update

Includes: Information about plans for the next release of the regional profiles.

Essential Links for Regional Data Users

- Regional @ a Glance
- Local Government and ABS newsletter
- Population Census
- Geography
- Locating Regional and Local Data on the ABS website
- Subscriptions

Regional Statistics Matters

This document was added or updated on 30/11/2012.



REGIONAL STATISTICS MATTERS

Added 30/11/2012

The second release phase of **2011 Census of Population and Housing** data commenced on 30 October 2012 and included data items requiring more detailed processing, such as the 'Occupation' and 'Method of Travel to Work' variables. Second release 2011 Census data is now available in TableBuilder (Basic and Pro), 4 weeks ahead of schedule. The Place of Enumeration and Expanded Community Profiles with 2011 Census second release data are also available. The Working Population Community Profiles and online DataPacks for Place of Enumeration, Expanded and Working population profiles were released on 20 November 2012.

This release also included the boundaries for Urban Centre and Locality/Section of State and Significant Urban Areas structures. Details of which can be found in Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 4 - Significant Urban Area, Urban Centres and Localities and Section of State, July 2011 (cat. no. 1270.0.55.004). More detailed information about the 2011 Census data products, the release schedule and changes between the 2006 and 2011 Census, is included in Information Paper: Census of Population and Housing -- Products and Services, 2011 (cat. no. 2011.0.55.001).

Public consultation for the review of the **2016 Census topics and procedures** commenced after the 2011 Census second data release. Following the release of the information paper – Census of Population and Housing: Consultation on Content and Procedures, 2016 (cat. no. 2007.0) – public seminars outlining the consultation and submission process, and ABS proposals for the 2016 Census will occur around Australia. Details for registration, dates and location of these seminars will be advertised on the Census Newsboard page from 6 November 2012.

The latest small area data on **personal income** was released on 28 November 2012 in Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas, Time Series, 2003-04 to 2009-10 (cat. no. 6524.0.55.002). This release contains data on the number of individuals and the amount of income received from Wages and salaries, Own unincorporated business, Investment, Superannuation and annuities, Other income (excluding Government pensions and allowances) and Total income (excluding Government pensions and allowances). Data is available for geographies based on the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) - SA2, SA3, SA4, State/Territory and Australia, and local government areas.

On 12th November 2012 we presented the fourth national video seminar in partnership with the **Australian Community Indicators Network** (ACIN). This seminar used 'housing' as a theme to discuss Census data availability, practical use and appearance under the new ABS geography, the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). Speakers also provided their views on the 4th OECD World Forum in New Delhi, India. The forum occurred on 16-19 October 2012 with the theme 'Measuring Well-being for Development and Policy Making'. More information about the network can be found on the ACIN website. Recordings of seminars held by the network can be found on the National Statistical Service website.

[Back to top](#)

Added 21/9/2012

The first release phase of **2011 Census of Population and Housing** data commenced on 21 June 2012. This included the release of core demographic data items which are freely available in a variety of products from the Census data & analysis page on the ABS website. This page also provides access, after registration, to the charged data products of TableBuilder Pro and DataPacks on DVD which are designed for advanced Census data users. The **second Census data release phase** commencing on 30 October 2012 will include data items requiring more detailed processing, such as the 'Occupation' and 'Method of Travel to Work' variables. More detailed information about the 2011 Census data products, the release schedule and changes between the 2006 and 2011 Censuses is included in the ABS Information Paper: Census of Population and Housing -- Products and Services, 2011 (cat. no. 2011.0.55.001).

The annual **Estimated Resident Population** data for regions has been released in Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2011 (cat. no. 3218.0) and Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, 2011 (cat. no. 3235.0). These releases include final estimates for 2001 to 2006 and preliminary rebased estimates for 2007 to 2011, based on results of the 2011 Census of Population and Housing. Population estimates based on the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) are included for the last time while estimates based on the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) are released for the first time. From 30 June 2012, sub-state population estimates will only be prepared and released at the SA2 level (and above) of the ASGS, however Local Government Area (LGA) estimates will continue to be released.

The 2012 update of **ASGS Non-ABS Structures** was released on 30 July 2012 in Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 3 - Non ABS Structures, July, 2012 (cat. no. 1270.0.55.003). The Non-ABS Structures of the ASGS bring together those regions which are not defined by the ABS, but which are supported by the ABS. This update contains revised digital boundaries, codes and labels for some LGAs and Tourism Regions (TRs) since the 2011 edition.

An analysis of geographical variations in average **'Wage and salary earner'** income has been released in Perspectives on Regional Australia: Variations in Wage and Salary Income between Local Government Areas (LGAs) (cat. no. 1380.0.55.006). This article examines Wage and salary income variations across LGAs using data from Wage and Salary Earner Statistics for Small Areas, Time Series, 2003-04 to 2008-09 (cat. no. 5673.0.55.003). The analysis at the LGA level will support local governments, policy makers and researchers who use LGA boundaries for planning and policy decisions.

From the July 2012 issue of Building Approvals, Australia (cat. no. 8731.0) onwards, data is being released on the ASGS only. Under the ASGS, **Building Approval** data will be published at the Australia, State/territory, Greater Capital City Statistical Area, Local Government Area and Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2) levels. For more information see the Feature Article: Implementation of the Australian Statistical Geography Standard in ABS Building Approvals Collection.

[Back to top](#)

Added 13/6/2012

Welcome to 'What's New in Regional Statistics' for 2012. On this page, we will be keeping you up to date with developments in regional data across the ABS.

Recently, there has been significant focus on regional policy and programs at all levels of government - and an increasing need for an evidence base. Our team at the ABS Rural and Regional Statistics National Centre (RRSNC) aim to understand the need for regional data across a wide range of data users.

We engage with the **Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport** - who have a strong interest in regional data, including data for the 55 Regional Development Australia (RDA) regions. That Department began to develop a new website in 2011, "myregion.gov" and ABS has assisted the Department with relevant data to support future development of this site, as well as for the other policy and planning activities of the Department. On 16th May, we gave a presentation to the RDA National Forum on accessing regional data on-line on the ABS website.

In May I also gave a presentation at a seminar for the Victorian state government on the status of work on developing a view of '**regional economies**'. The slides from this presentation are available on the National Statistical Service website.

The ABS is also involved in the **Australian Community Indicators Network** (ACIN). The ACIN aims to assist people using or developing community indicators to share ideas and information and to foster collaboration. For information see the ACIN website. Recordings of seminars held by the network can also be found on the National Statistical Service website. The latest seminar was on 9th May.

Other work we are currently undertaking includes several articles **analysing regional data**. One uses 'Wage and salary earner' income data and another will use 2006 Census data to analyse population growth and mobility. These articles are expected to be released mid 2012, and can be updated when the latest data is available.

The release of **Census 2011 data** starts on 21 June 2012. You can already find example formats for some of the Community Profiles, you can register for TableBuilder, and you can pre-order customised tables. For more information about Census plans - go to the Census pages.

Another important release with regional data is the annual **Estimated Resident Population**. Data for regions will be released in July 2012 and regional age and sex data in August 2012. For more information, see Population Estimates under Australia's new Statistical Geography, 2011. There is also a presentation you can view on the National Statistical Service website.

To keep up with recent news, from now on this newsletter will be updated more regularly. We encourage you to subscribe now to get email notification of updates.

Regards,

Lisa Conolly
Director
Regional Statistics
Australian Bureau of Statistics

[Back to top](#)

Changes to Geography for the Survey of Tourist Accommodation

This document was added or updated on 21/09/2012.



CHANGES TO GEOGRAPHY FOR THE SURVEY OF TOURIST ACCOMMODATION

Introduction
What is the ASGS?

Why was the ASGS introduced to the STA?
What level of geography is now available for the STA?
When was the ASGS introduced into the STA?
What is available to assist in transitioning to the ASGS?
Further information

INTRODUCTION

The ABS has been progressively replacing the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) with the new Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) as its geographic framework.

The purpose of this article is to provide information about how the ASGS has been implemented in the Survey of Tourist Accommodation (STA), and includes information to assist users to transition to this change.

WHAT IS THE ASGS?

The ASGS is the framework for understanding and interpreting the geographical context of statistics published by the ABS. It brings all the regions for which the ABS publishes statistics within the one framework and will be used for the collection and dissemination of all geographically classified statistics. As a whole, the ASGS represents a more comprehensive, flexible and consistent way of defining Australia's statistical geography than the ASGC. For more information on the ASGS please refer to the ABS website at www.abs.gov.au/geography.

[Back to top](#)

WHY WAS THE ASGS INTRODUCED TO THE STA?

All ABS collections are transitioning to the ASGS by 2013. The ASGS addresses some of the shortcomings of the ASGC in that:

- It brings all the geographic regions used by the ABS into the one framework and now includes Non-ABS structures (such as Tourism Regions) which are not defined by the ABS but which are important to users of ABS statistics.
- The ABS structures will remain stable between each cycle of the Census, although Tourism Regions (a Non-ABS structure) will continue to be reviewed on an annual basis.
- The regions at each level of the ASGS ABS structures are more consistent in population size.
- The regions at each level of the ASGS ABS structures are based on the idea of a functional area and are built around whole official gazetted localities.

WHAT LEVEL OF GEOGRAPHY IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR THE STA?

Statistical Area Level 2

Under the ASGS, small area data is produced at Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2) and replaces Statistical Local Area (SLA) data. To assist with the transition, there will be a dual release of small area data for the four quarters of 2012. Data will be released at both the SLA level (using ASGC 2011) and at the SA2 level (ASGS). As backcasting of historical STA data onto the ASGS is not possible, the dual release will allow users to continue with an ASGC time series for a 12 month period, whilst beginning a new ASGS time series at the same time.

Tourism Region

Tourism Regions (TRs) have changed to be constructed from allocations of whole SA2s rather than whole SLAs. Unlike SLAs which changed every year, SA2s will be reviewed only once every five years, therefore making these data more stable over time. Furthermore, SA2s are in general smaller than SLAs and, as they represent functional areas of regional towns, the SA2 based TRs are a better geographical representation of underlying social and economic interactions than the SLAs based TRs.

As TRs are defined each year by Tourism Research Australia (TRA) in consultation with State and Territory Tourism organisations, TR boundaries and names may still change each year as a result of this consultation.

A Statistical Geography Fact Sheet has been produced for Tourism Regions and how they fit into the ASGS. This contains further information on the ASGS which may be useful, and is available for download from the Statistical Geography Portal on the ABS website.

Local Government Area

Under the ASGC, Local Government Areas (LGAs) were made up of one or more SLAs. As the lowest level of geography available for the STA under the ASGC was SLA, it was possible to produce LGA level data by aggregating selected SLAs. Under the ASGS, a relationship does not exist between LGAs and SA2s. As SA2 is the lowest level of geography now available for the STA, it is no longer possible to produce LGA level data. As a result, the selected LGA data series which was produced for the STA has been discontinued. Similarly, data for the special area of 'Brisbane City Core' will also be discontinued.

[Back to top](#)

WHEN WAS THE ASGS INTRODUCED INTO THE STA?

The ASGS became the geographical framework for the STA from the March quarter 2012 and affects all STA releases which contain small area data. STA data at the Australia and state/territory level has not been affected by the move to the ASGS. STA small area data based on the ASGS are contained in the following data releases:

- Tourist Accommodation, Small Area Data, New South Wales - Australian Capital Territory (cat. no. 8635.1.55.001 - 8635.8.55.001)
- Tourist Accommodation, Small Area Data, Australia (8635.0.55.002).

WHAT IS AVAILABLE TO ASSIST IN TRANSITIONING TO THE ASGS?

An information paper has been developed which provides Tourism Region maps and establishment counts comparing the old and new geographies. This information paper is available from the ABS website at: Information Paper: Future changes to Tourist Accommodation, Australia, June 2012 (cat. no. 8635.0.55.003).

The ABS is also making an extensive range of correspondences available to assist with the implementation of the new statistical geography. Those of particular relevance for STA users are '2011 SLA to SA2' and 'SA2 to LGA' correspondences. A complete list of correspondences available and the dates they will be released are available from the Statistical Geography Portal on the ABS website, or by emailing geography@abs.gov.au.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information on Tourism Accommodation statistics, including implementation of the ASGS in the Tourist Accommodation collection or changes to outputs, please contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

[Back to top](#)

Understanding the New ABS Geography



UNDERSTANDING THE NEW ABS GEOGRAPHY

Introduction
Building Approvals case studies
Case study example
Further information

INTRODUCTION

From July 2011, the ABS began to release data using the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). Information about the new geographies can be found in the ABS Geography Portal.

A summary table of the ABS publications that will be impacted by the transition from the previous Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) to the ASGS can be found on the ASGS Implementation Schedule for ABS Publications page in the ABS Geography Portal. For each publication the table summarises the geographical level available and output dates for final data on the ASGC and first data using the ASGS. The first ABS data series that was released on the ASGS was Building Approvals, Australia (cat. no 8731.0) in August 2011.

BUILDING APPROVALS CASE STUDIES

In April 2012 an article was released with four case studies of 'New House Building Approvals' data illustrating, with maps, the impact of change in statistical geography from the ASGC to the ASGS.

The four case studies presented in the article are:

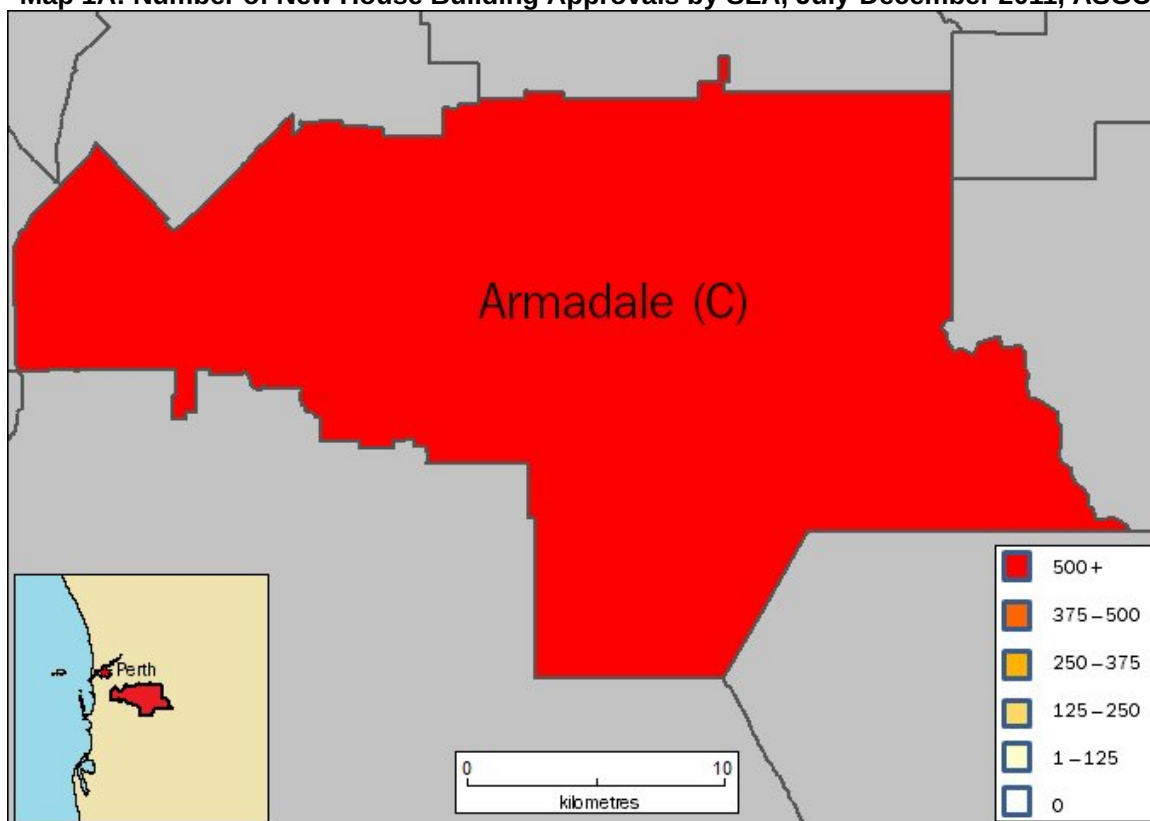
- Case Study #1 shows a former SLA (ASGC) that is now represented by eight SA2s (ASGS), with the result that more regional data is now available.
- Case Study #2 shows where five sparsely 'populated' SLAs are now one SA2.
- Case Study #3 is an example of where a Statistical Subdivision (SSD) covers an apparently similar geographic area to two SA3s. However, as the area covered by the SA3s is slightly different, understanding where the boundaries are is important. Also, in this example, the component SA2s within the SA3s offer more regional data than previously under the ASGC.
- Case Study #4 shows another example of different boundaries. In this case, the SLA and SA2 have similar names but cover different areas.

[Back to top](#)

CASE STUDY EXAMPLE

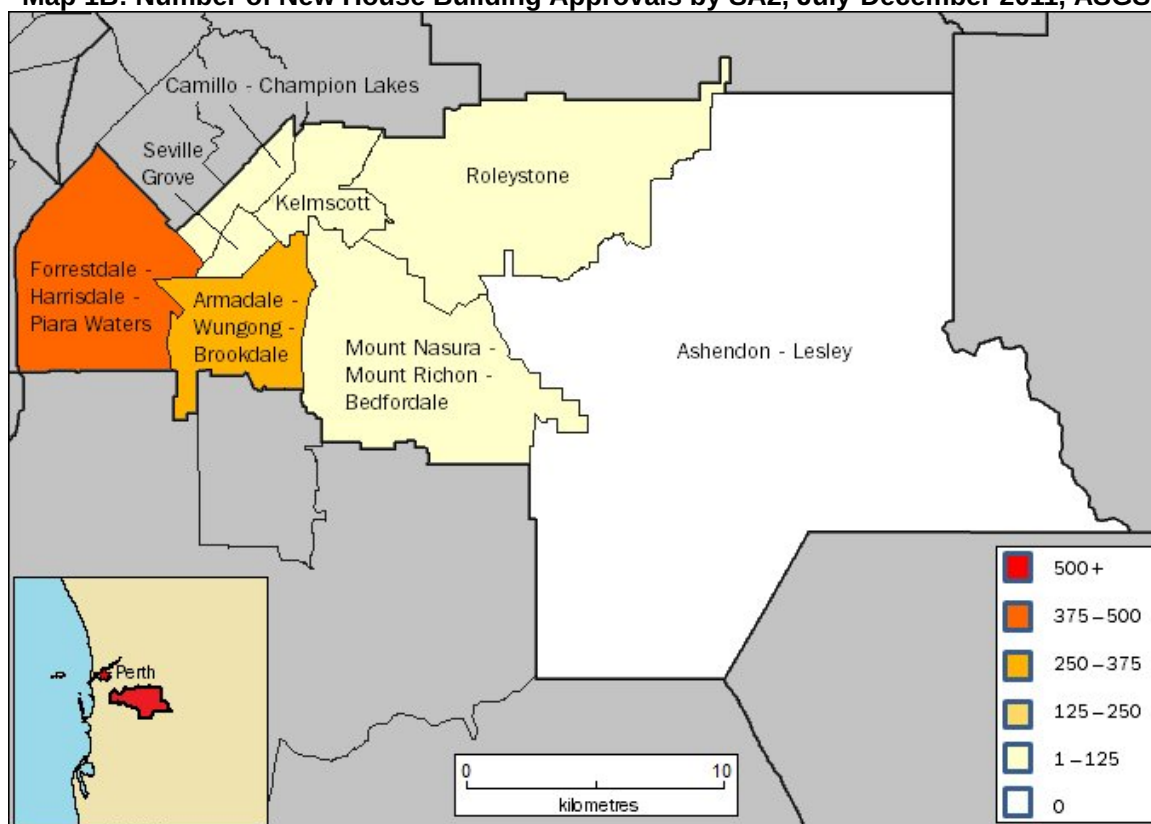
Case study #1 has been reproduced here as an example of the impact of change from the ASGC to the ASGS. This case study includes Map 1A showing the SLA (ASGC) representing the City of Armadale in Western Australia.

Map 1A: Number of New House Building Approvals by SLA, July-December 2011, ASGC



Map 1B shows how this SLA is now represented by the SA3 of Armadale and its eight SA2s under the ASGS, providing a greater level of geographic detail.

Map 1B: Number of New House Building Approvals by SA2, July-December 2011, ASGS



Under the ASGC, the SLA of Armadale (C) had 708 new houses approved from July to December 2011. Under the new ASGS structure, the SA3 of Armadale also has 708 new house building approvals. There were 456 approvals in the SA2 of Forrestdale - Harrisdale - Piara Waters, 128 in Armadale - Wungong - Brookdale, 38 in Kelmscott, 27 in Seville Grove, 26 in Camillo - Champion Lakes, 20 in Mount Nasura - Mount Richon - Bedforddale, 13 in Roleystone and zero in Ashendon - Lesley.

FURTHER INFORMATION

To read the other case studies in the feature article, refer to Exploring the New ABS Geography with Buildings Data.

More information on the ASGS can be found by visiting the Geography Portal on the ABS website. This includes details about the new ASGS regions referred to in this article, for example, the Statistical Area 2 (SA2) and Statistical Area 3 (SA3) regions.

[Back to top](#)

National Regional Profile Update

This document was added or updated on 30/11/2012.



NATIONAL REGIONAL PROFILE UPDATE

Added 30/11/2012

Additions to NRP content

As an outcome of consultation with users in early 2012, the next release of the National Regional Profile (NRP) will contain a number of new data items, expanding the range of data provided for small regions. Some key additions to the NRP content include:

- counts of businesses by industry, and entries and exits by employment size
- proportion of the youth population (15-19 years) fully engaged in work and/or study
- labour force participation rate and top five employing industries
- method of travel to work
- war service pensions and income support supplement data
- average monthly household rent and mortgage payments
- average number of usual residents per private dwelling
- average household and family size
- population of working age (15-64 years) and median age (all persons)
- gross value of irrigated agriculture production
- dynamic land cover (land cover type) and main land use category.

Most of these data items can be repeated across multiple levels of geography, Australia-wide. The next release of the NRP in early 2013 will be for local government areas and regions in the Australian Statistical Geography Standard, including SA2, SA3, SA4 and Greater Capital City Statistical Areas.

NRP content development is a long term ongoing focus. If you have discovered useful datasets or data items with wider appeal, that could be replicated across jurisdictions and add value to the NRP, we invite you to contact us with your suggestions. Please call Arnold Strals on (08) 8237 7365 or email regional.statistics@abs.gov.au.

[Back to top](#)

Added 13/6/2012

You may be familiar with the current National Regional Profile (NRP) - this is a very popular snapshot of data for over 2,000 regions right across Australia. There are currently around 300 data items, many in a five year time series, and for regions such as local government areas.

Right now, our team is planning for the next issue of the NRP and we will keep you up to date with those plans through this page.

New data content

One of the things we have been doing to plan for the next issue is talking to users to get comments and feedback on what is in the NRP now and suggestions for further improvements.

We have been working through all the suggestions received, and as a result plan to add some new data items in the next issue. While all the details are still being finalised, we expect to include business counts and some extra data from the 2011 Census of Population and Housing that users have suggested. We are also looking at other new sources of data that are available at a regional level for all of Australia (for example, other environmental data sources).

If you have any suggestions for new data items or sources of data, we would be pleased to hear them. You can email us at regional.statistics@abs.gov.au

More details of expected changes to the data content will be added to this page during 2012.

Next release date

Our plan is to release the next issue of the NRP in early 2013 on the new ABS geography. We will be providing data for local government areas, for the new SA2, SA3, SA4 and Greater Capital City Statistical Areas, and of course for states/territories and Australia. If you would like more information on the new ABS geography, you can find this through the Geography pages.

Find the NRP

You can find the current National Regional Profile directly from the ABS website home page.

All Statistics
Statistics
Understanding Statistics
Statistical Geography
Statistical Quality Management
National Statistics
Australia's Population
Key Economic Indicators
Census Data
Consumer Price Index
Labour Force
National Accounts
Measures of Australia's Progress
Regional Statistics
Selected information with a regional focus
National Regional Profile ←

If you have any questions about using the NRP, or need help, please contact Arnold Strals - phone (08) 8237 7365 or email arnold.strals@abs.gov.au.

[Back to top](#)

Historical List of feature Articles



HISTORICAL LIST OF FEATURE ARTICLES

2012

Sep 2012 Changes to Geography for the Survey of Tourist Accommodation

Jun 2012 Understanding the New ABS Geography

2011

Jun 2011 2011 Census of Population and Housing

The New Statistical Geography - Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS)

The Changing Face of Wage and Salary Earners on Melbourne's Outskirts

2010

Jun 2010 A Faster Way to Find Data for Your Region

2009

Jun 2009 Regional Population Growth

Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas

2008

Dec 2008 Explore Your Region with the National Regional Profile

ABS to Replace Statistical Geography in 2011

Jun 2008 New Series - Own Unincorporated Business Income by Regions

About this Release

'What's New in Regional Statistics, 2012' highlights developments in statistics relevant to regions and other

information of likely interest to users of small area data. Information will be updated during the year as new information becomes available.

History of Changes

This document was added or updated on 21/09/2012.

30/11/2012

- Information about the second release phase of 2011 Census data, the consultation arrangements for the 2016 Census, the recent release of small area personal income data and the fourth Australian Community Indicators Network national video seminar have been added to the 'Regional Statistics Matters' page.
- The 'National Regional Profile Update' page includes new details about the additional content for the next NRP being released in early 2013.

21/09/2012

- The 'Regional Statistics Matters' page has been updated with new information.
- A new feature article, 'Changes to Geography for the Survey of Tourist Accommodation', has been added to the 'Focus On' section.

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